

NEWS RELEASE

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SITKA MAN SENTENCED TO 10 YEARS IN FEDERAL PRISON FOR CHILD PORN

Anchorage, Alaska – United States Attorney Nelson P. Cohen announced that on December 4, 2007, Johnny Bell, Jr., a resident of Sitka, Alaska, was sentenced in federal court in Juneau to 120 months for his conviction of transportation, distribution, attempted receipt, and possession of child pornography.

Chief United States District Court Judge John W. Sedwick imposed the sentence on Bell, age 44, of 2212 Halibut Point Road, Sitka, Alaska.

According to information presented to the court by Assistant United States Attorney Audrey Renschen and Special Assistant United States Attorney Erin White, Bell transported child pornography using a computer on April 4, 2004, when he uploaded child pornography images to a Yahoo! newsgroup, that Bell distributed child pornography using email on September 13, 2005, and that Bell attempted receipt of child pornography between September 13 and October 17, 2005, when he sent money through the mail for a DVD of child pornography. The evidence further showed that Bell possessed child pornography on compact discs found on November 17, 2005, when a federal search warrant was executed at his residence in Sitka, Alaska.

Prior to imposing sentence, Judge Sedwick noted that the defendant's crimes were very serious, as child pornography involves the actual abuse of little children. Judge Sedwick also found a four-level sentencing enhancement, as video images possessed by the defendant depicted a minor in a state of bondage.

Mr. Cohen commended the Federal Bureau of Investigation for the investigation leading to the successful prosecution of Bell.

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